(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir. Nevertheless, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Second NCB International Seminar on Cement and Building Materials held on 30th January, 1989 in New Delhi, the cement industry was exported to efficiently utilise the existing insalled capacity.

(b) to (d) Various factors, internal and external, like power cuts, inadequate coal supplies, shortage of railway wagons, labour problems, mechanical break downs, etc., affect utilisation of installed capacities for the manufacture of cement. The capacity utilisation during 1986-87 and 1987-88 was 79 per cent and 71 per cent respectively. The estimated capacity utilisation during 1988-89 is 76 per cent.

Measures towards fuller utilisation of installed capacities is a continuous process and Government have taken the following steps to boost production of cement in the country:—

(i) The production of cement is closely monitored by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Cement Industry for rendering assistance to the cement industry in the matter of availability of various inputs like coal, power and wagons by taking up the matter with the concerned authorities like the State Electricity Boards, Ministry of Railways, Department of Coal, Coal Organisations, etc.

(ii) The industry is encouraged to undertake schemes for productivity enhancement, upgradation of technology, installation of energy conservation equipments, modernisation and rehabilitation of the old units.

(iii) The cement industry has been advised to instal captive power generating capacity. To encourage setting up and operation of captive D.G. sets installed after 1-1-1982 appropriate relief used to be allowed in fixation of levy quota.

(iv) While the scheme of price and distribution controls was in existence, the retention prices of levy cement used to be increased periodically. The levy obligation was also progressively reduced. Special dispensation in levy obligation used to be extended for production beyond 100 per cent and upto 125 per cent of the approved capacity.

(v) With effect from 1-3-1989, price and distribution controls have been removed. It is expected that with this measure the growth of cement industry would be accelerated.

(vi) Rebate in central excise duties are allowed to newer units. As part of the Budget proposals for the year 1989-90 excise duty on cement manufactured by units using vertical shaft kiln has been reduced by Rs. 100 per tonne from the general effective rate.

Linking of major airports with major world airports by hot lines

2898. SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four major cities Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras will be linked to the major world airports by not lines or by satellite; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by the Videsh Sanchar Nigam to implement the same as a part of massive modernisation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration in this Department.

(b) Does not arise.